

Officials Committee Report

May, 2010

The PVS Officials Committee currently consists of 20 appointed members and 2 ex-officio members. The Committee is specifically charged with:

- ✓ Recruiting and training officials;
- ✓ Planning and conducting the certification program;
- ✓ Monitoring and raising the overall quality of officiating;
- ✓ Staffing National Certification meets for which PVS is responsible.

Notable Statistics

- Current number of certified PVS officials – 335
- Number of officials clinics held this season (since September, 2009) – 21
- Officials Qualifying Meets within our LSC (since this time last year) – 6
- 73 PVS officials currently hold either N2 or N3 certification, 41 at leadership positions (Referee, Admin Referee, Starter, Chief Judge)
- 63 PVS officials successfully underwent formal evaluation this year under the national certification program; many officials were evaluated for more than one position, for a total of 95 evaluations.
- 47 PVS officials participated in the officials track at the 2009 Swimposium
- 4 PVS officials have now been appointed by USA Swimming as National Evaluators at the N3 level.
- 9 PVS officials were selected to work national championship during the past year, two in leadership positions.

Notable Committee Work

- The Committee has established a new specialized Chief Judge training program with formal certification beginning in the 2010-11 season. PVS is one of the few LSCs in the country to institute such a program.
- 22 officials were invited by the Committee to start the process for certification as a PVS referee, the largest number in recent memory. This is a lengthy and rigorous process of study, practice, and evaluation; it includes certification in all officiating positions, including timing system and HyTek operator. Several of these officials have already completed the process, and most have made significant progress at fulfilling all the requirements.

- The Committee has made a slight change to its structure, allowing for the appointment of a Vice Chair. It is felt that this change will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee in serving the needs of PVS officials.
- Rita Page has incorporated our local certification data into USA Swimming's national Official Tracking System. PVS officials can now view all their certification information, both local and national, at this one online location.
- Rita Page also recently updated the Timers' Briefing to include new rules regarding use of cell phones or cameras, as well as clarifying other timer duties and expectations.
- The Committee has established a standard uniform for PVS Championship meets: white polo shirt over navy blue shorts, trousers, or skirt for Prelims; light blue oxford shirt over navy blue trousers or skirt for Finals.
- The Committee recently held a Clinic Instructors meeting under the direction of Boots Hall, to discuss training material, certification procedures, as well as consistency and best practices in instruction.
- An Officials Reception was held at River Falls on Sunday, April 18. Officials were recognized for their contributions and achievements in a convivial social atmosphere. The reception was well-attended and well-regarded by our officials.
- Tim Husson was the November, 2009 recipient of the Maxwell Award. The Maxwell Award is given every two months under the sponsorship of *Swimming World* magazine and Maxwell Medals to honor an LSC official for his or her outstanding contributions to local swimming. Tim's well-deserved award was presented during the Tom Dolan Invitational and was celebrated at the recent Officials Reception.
- USA Swimming held two Officials Training Workshops this year: Amy Hsu and Bob Vincent represented PVS at the October 9-10 workshop in San Antonio. Pam Starke-Reed and Scott Robinson represented PVS at the May 14-16 workshop in Minneapolis.

A Concern

- The Committee is concerned that due to the growing number of meets and sessions, some of which are not being properly staffed, our meets may not be conducted as fairly and safely as we would like. We are especially alarmed that marshals and timing judges are often not recruited and assigned for many sessions.

Future Committee Focal Points

- The Officials Committee is dedicated to maintaining a high standard of officiating in the LSC. To this end, we will continue to communicate and model best practices in understanding and applying the rules, procedures, and interpretations, and in fostering the personal skills, attitudes, and demeanor that typify an exceptional official.
- The Committee believes we must continue to focus on consistency in our officiating: consistency from meet to meet as well as consistency with regard to other LSCs. Our athletes should expect consistent application of the rules, procedures, and interpretations whether they're swimming in the November Open, a mini-meet, Junior Nationals, PVS Senior Champs, a club-run dual meet, a Zone Championship, etc.
- The Committee also believes we must continue to recruit and retain conscientious, dedicated men and women to serve as officials. A major focus in these efforts will be the clubs themselves. We intend to strengthen the position of club officials chair. If you haven't already done so, please appoint a dynamic, dedicated chair of officials for your club. Please give this person your full support and respect, whether you host meets or not. If you would like to make your parents more knowledgeable in the rules of swimming and would like to host an officials clinics at one of your practice locations, please contact me.

Finally

- Please take the time and thank your club's officials. Swimming is one of the few sports where just about everyone involved is a volunteer. And our officials are perhaps the most dedicated of these volunteers. Standing on deck for hours is just part of it: officials attend clinics, workshops and Swimposiums, they conscientiously review the rules before each and every session, they regularly take tests on the rules and interpretations, they undergo regular evaluations, they actively mentor new officials. These folks are dedicated and committed: please thank them.